

REMARKS

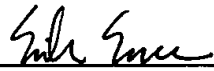
Claims 1-40 are presently pending, of which Claims 1-14 have been elected for prosecution. Independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to move the limitation of "at least a portion of at least one hearing aid component" being tinted to respective dependent Claims 41 and 42. Claims 1 and 10 have also been amended to recite that the faceplate and shell can be tinted. Support for this limitation is found at least on page 23, lines 1-2 and 10-13 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 
Erik L. Ence
Registration No. 42,511
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: April 15, 2004